



**A BETTER PLACE:** While the children take a nap at Lovuyo Orphanage, founder Lindiwe Nokwali explains to the US embassy's Donald Teitelbaum the improvements that have been made.

PICTURE: HERBERT MATIMBA

#### PHILIP MARÉ

The revamped Lovuyo Orphanage was unveiled this week as it celebrated receiving a donation of more than R50 000 from the US embassy.

The money was used to buy much-needed equipment and supplies for the Soshanguve orphanage, which cares for more than 60 children.

Lindiwe Nokwali, the founder of the institution, thanked the embassy for the donation.

She said: "The first time they came here the centre was really in

need, but today there is a great difference. We would like to thank them for their help."

Nokwali quit her job as a teacher to start the centre in 2000.

"When I was a teacher I saw children coming to school without having eaten and without proper uniforms. I later found out many of them were orphans.

"I eventually decided to resign to

try to take care of them in any way possible."

The donation forms part of the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief, a US initiative operating in nearly 150 countries worldwide. South Africa is one of the project's biggest beneficiaries, and will receive approximately R1.3-billion in aid this year.

Donald Teitelbaum, the chargé

d'affaires at the US embassy, was thrilled by the way the orphanage had improved.

"We are pleased with the progress. What these caregivers and the community are doing for these children really speaks for itself," he said.

Teitelbaum was especially impressed with the level of community involvement.

"The projects with community support are usually the most successful. We are always glad when we see that happening", he said.

Despite the many improvements, Nokwali knows there is still work to be done. "At this point we cannot give our volunteers much and we would like to change that. We would also like to install showers. Hopefully, the government will soon be able to help us as well."

She said she looked forward to a fruitful association with the embassy. "We hope that this is the beginning of long relationship."